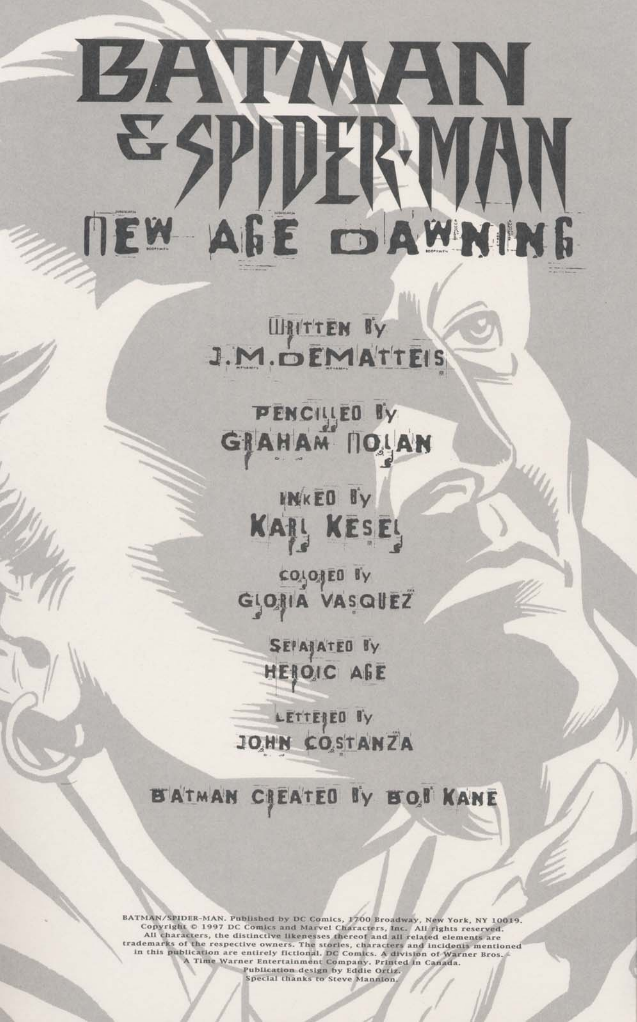


DC
BATMAN
MARVEL COMICS
& SPIDER-MAN
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BATMAN & SPIDER-MAN

NEW AGE DAWNING

WRITTEN BY
J.M. DEMATTEIS

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INKED BY
KARL KESEL

COLORED BY
GLORIA VASQUEZ

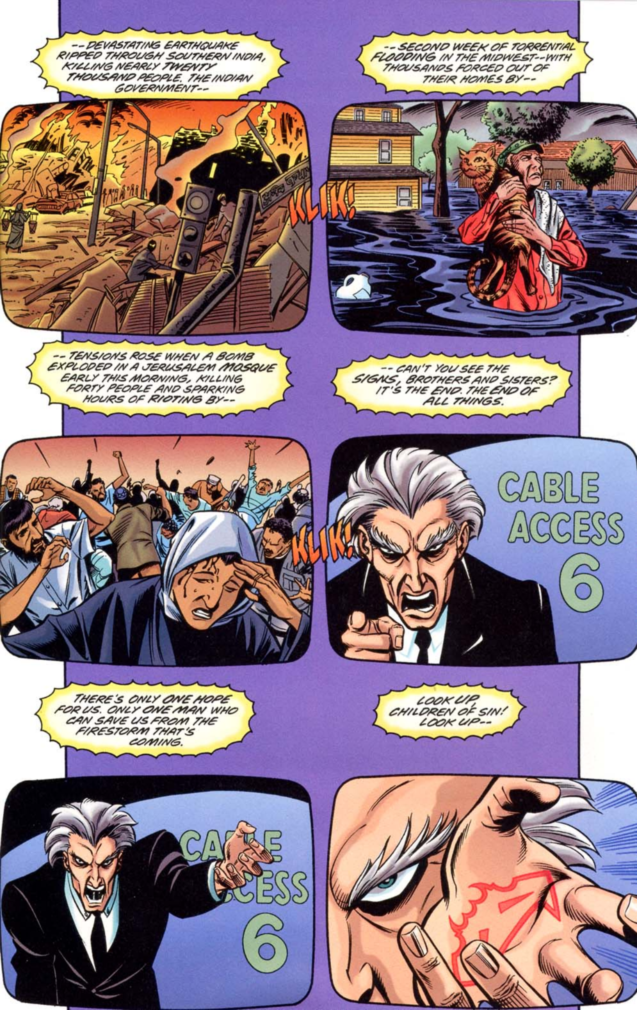
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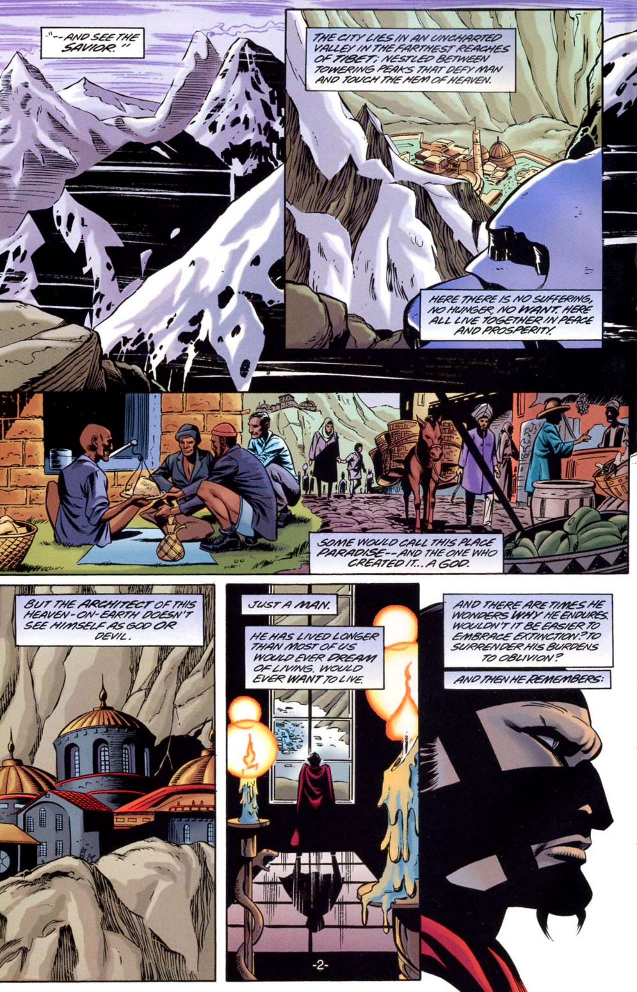
LETTERED BY
JOHN COSTANZA

BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

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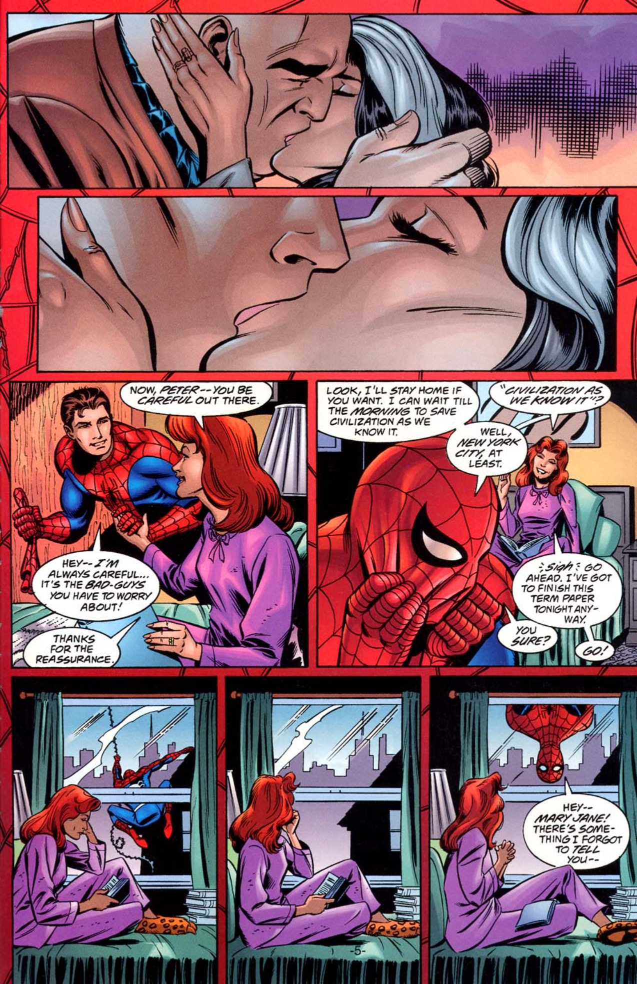
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--DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE RIPPED THROUGH SOUTHERN INDIA, KILLING NEARLY TWENTY THOUSAND PEOPLE. THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT--
--SECOND WEEK OF TORRENTIAL FLOODING IN THE MIDWEST--WITH THOUSANDS FORCED OUT OF THEIR HOMES BY--
KLIK!
--TENSIONS ROSE WHEN A BOMB EXPLODED IN A JERUSALEM MOSQUE EARLY THIS MORNING, KILLING FORTY PEOPLE AND SPARKING HOURS OF RIOTING BY--
--CAN'T YOU SEE THE SIGNS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS? IT'S THE END. THE END OF ALL THINGS.
KLIK!
CABLE ACCESS 6
THERE'S ONLY ONE HOPE FOR US. ONLY ONE MAN WHO CAN SAVE US FROM THE FIRESTORM THAT'S COMING.
LOOK UP, CHILDREN OF SIN! LOOK UP--
CABLE ACCESS 6


"--AND SEE THE SAVIOR."
THE CITY LIES IN AN UNCHARTED VALLEY IN THE FARTHEST REACHES OF TIBET; NESTLED BETWEEN TOWERING PEAKS THAT DEFY MAN AND TOUCH THE HEM OF HEAVEN.
HERE THERE IS NO SUFFERING, NO HUNGER, NO WANT. HERE ALL LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE AND PROSPERITY.
SOME WOULD CALL THIS PLACE PARADISE--AND THE ONE WHO CREATED IT...A GOD.
BUT THE ARCHITECT OF THIS HEAVEN-ON-EARTH DOESN'T SEE HIMSELF AS GOD OR DEVIL.
JUST A MAN.
HE HAS LIVED LONGER THAN MOST OF US WOULD EVER DREAM OF LIVING. WOULD EVER WANT TO LIVE.
AND THERE ARE TIMES HE WONDERS WHY HE ENDURES. WOULDN'T IT BE EASIER TO EMBRACE EXTINCTION? TO SURRENDER HIS BURDENS TO OBLIVION?
AND THEN HE REMEMBERS:


REMEMBERS CENTURIES OF PAIN AND BLOOD AND AFFLICTION.
REMEMBERS HIS VISION OF A BETTER WORLD, PURGED OF SIN AND INSANITY.
REMEMBERS HIS DAUGHTER'S INNOCENT EYES-- ON THE NIGHT SHE WAS BORN.
HE KNOWS WHAT HE HAS TO DO. HE KNOWS THE LIVES THAT WILL BE LOST IF HIS PLAN IS TO SUCCEED.
BUT IT MUST SUCCEED-- IF THIS WORLD IS TO SURVIVE.
FOR A MOMENT, DOUBT FLICKERS IN THOSE ANCIENT EYES. PERHAPS, DOUBT WHISPERS, YOU ARE MAD. PERHAPS YOU ARE AS CORRUPTED AS THE EVIL YOU SEEK TO EXTINGUISH.
BUT HE WRESTLES DOUBT TO THE GROUND, SNAPS ITS NECK, SPITS IN ITS FACE.
THERE IS NO ROOM FOR DOUBT IN THIS WORK. HE MUST CLING TO BELIEF. TO FAITH.


TO THE FUTURE.
ONCE, WALKING DOWN THESE MAGICAL PARISIAN STREETS FILLED HER WITH JOY. BUT THERE'S NO JOY IN HER HEART NOW: JUST WORRY. AND SORROW. AND ICY FEAR.
IT'S NOT FAIR, VANESSA FISK THINKS, TO ENDURE THIS BY MYSELF. IT'S NOT FAIR TO HAVE TO FACE THE DARKNESS...
...SO ALONE.
"GROW OLD ALONG WITH ME--
WILSON...?
"--THE BEST IS YET TO BE.
"THE LAST OF LIFE--
"--FOR WHICH THE FIRST WAS MADE."


NOW, PETER--YOU BE CAREFUL OUT THERE.
HEY--I'M ALWAYS CAREFUL... IT'S THE BAD-GUYS YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT!
THANKS FOR THE REASSURANCE.
LOOK, I'LL STAY HOME IF YOU WANT. I CAN WAIT TILL THE MORNING TO SAVE CIVILIZATION AS WE KNOW IT.
"CIVILIZATION AS WE KNOW IT"?
WELL, NEW YORK CITY, AT LEAST.
:SIGH: GO AHEAD. I'VE GOT TO FINISH THIS TERM PAPER TONIGHT ANY-WAY.
YOU SURE?
GO!
HEY--MARY JANE! THERE'S SOME-THING I FORGOT TO TELL YOU--



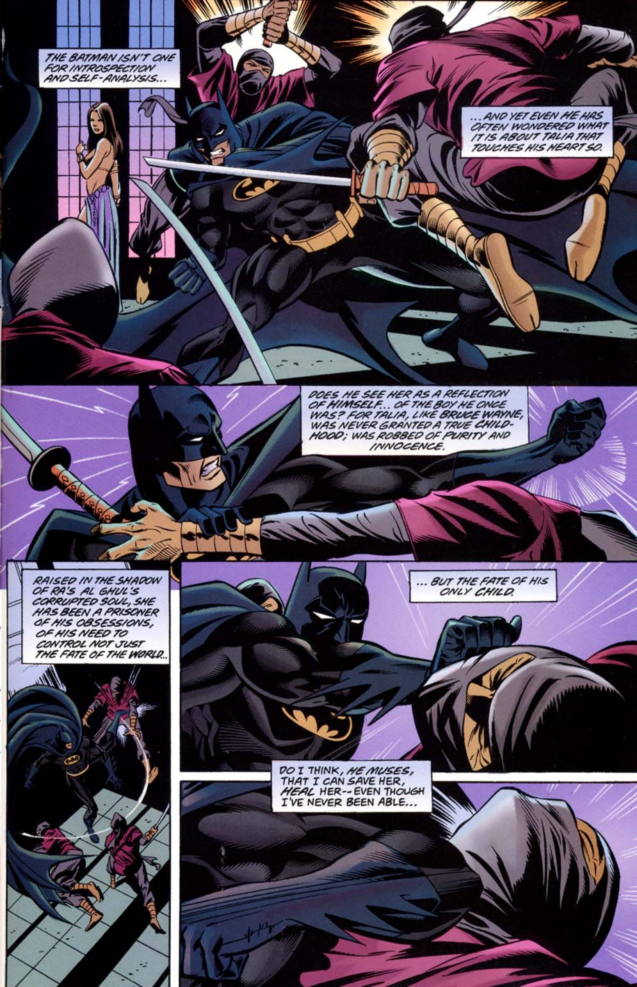
YOU'RE THE GREATEST!
MARY JANE PARKER WOULD BE LYING IF SHE SAID SHE DIDN'T WORRY ABOUT HER HUSBAND.
WHAT WIFE WOULDN'T WORRY IF HER HUSBAND'S HOBBY WAS RUNNING AROUND THE CITY IN A PAIR OF TIGHTS, FIGHTING HOMICIDAL MANIACS?
BUT SHE'S LEARNED TO TRUST PETER. TO TRUST HERSELF.
AND TO TRUST THEIR LOVE MOST OF ALL.
SHE HAS A PROFOUND FAITH IN THAT LOVE TO SUSTAIN THEM... AND PROTECT THEM BOTH FROM HARM.
ROMANTIC? CERTAINLY. UNREALISTIC? NOT ONE BIT.
FOR ALL THE DANGERS THEY'VE FACED TOGETHER, FOR ALL THE TRAGEDIES THEY'VE ENDURED, MARY JANE VIEWS HER LIFE AS MAGICAL. ENCHANTED. A MODERN-DAY FAIRY TALE.
HOW COULD IT NOT BE-- FOR A WOMAN WHO'S MARRIED TO--
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.


...IT IS ALL THERE, MR. DePALMA. GO AHEAD-- COUNT IT.
I DON'T HAVE T'COUNT IT. 'CAUSE YOU KNOW THAT IF YOU'RE SHORT ONE PENNY--
--THE MAN IS GONNA HAVE YOUR HEAD.
KRAASH!
THAT MAN YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT WOULDN'T BE A BLUB-BERY BEHEMOTH BY THE NAME OF WILSON FISK, WOULD IT?
SPIDER-MAN?!
PLUG 'IM!
RAKKAKKAKKAKKA
"PLUG 'IM"?
I CAN SEE THAT DAVID MAMET--
DOESN'T WRITE YOUR DIALOGUE!
I GUESS FISK LIKES TO SURROUND HIMSELF WITH DROOLING IDIOTS--
--SO HE CAN FEEL SUPERIOR!

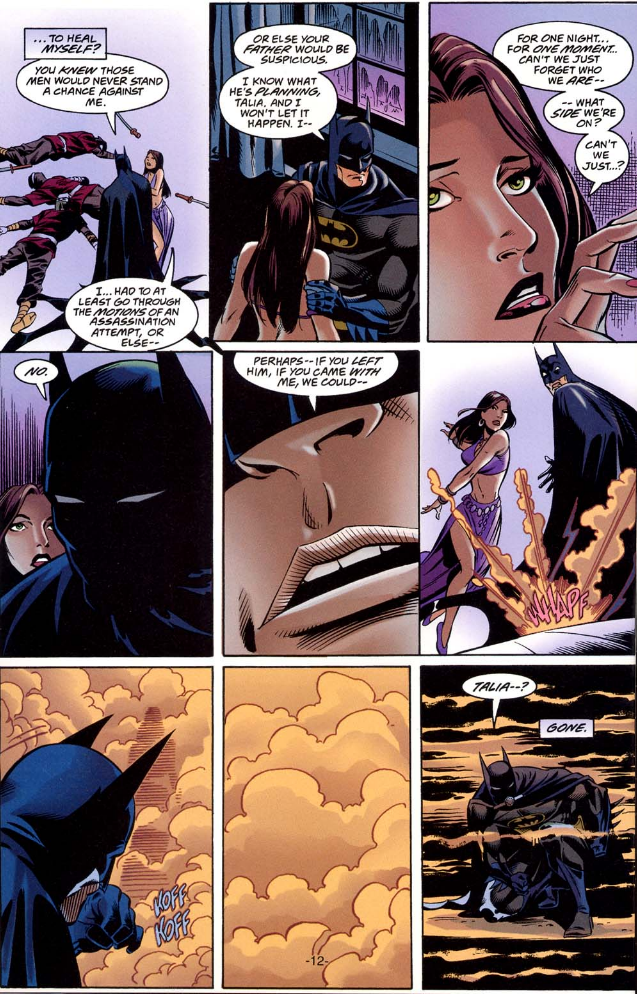

I'M SURE IT RELATES TO HIS WEIGHT PROBLEM. ALL THE KIDS PROBABLY MADE FUN OF HIM BACK IN GRADE SCHOOL--
-- SO HE NEEDS TO COMPENSATE FOR HIS FEELINGS OF VESTIGIAL CHILDHOOD ANXIETY AND INTENSE INFERIORITY BY--
THWIP
YANK
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
I SPEND ALL THIS TIME DEVELOPING A SOPHISTICATED PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE OF THE KINGPIN--
WHAP!
--AND NO ONE'S
EVEN LISTENING TO--
--ME...?
HMM...
SHE'S DOWN THERE SOMEWHERE, WAITING FOR HIM.


JUST KNOWING THAT SHE'S HERE IN GOTHAM...
...IN HIS CITY...
...INFURIATES HIM.
BECAUSE WHEREVER SHE WALKS-- THE DEMON IS NEVER FAR BEHIND.
HAS HE EVER FACED AN OPPONENT MORE FORMIDABLE THAN RA'S AL GHUL?
AND HAS HE EVER LOVED A WOMAN MORE DEEPLY THAN HE LOVES THE DEMON'S DAUGHTER--
TALIA?


BATMAN!
BRUCE...
YOU GOT MY MESSAGE. YOU CAME!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I HAVE... BUSINESS IN AMERICA--
YOUR FATHER'S BUSINESS.
--AND I HAD TO SEE YOU. TO--



THE BATMAN ISN'T ONE FOR INTROSPECTION AND SELF-ANALYSIS...
...AND YET EVEN HE HAS OFTEN WONDERED WHAT IT IS ABOUT TALIA THAT TOUCHES HIS HEART SO.
DOES HE SEE HER AS A REFLECTION OF HIMSELF... OF THE BOY HE ONCE WAS? FOR TALIA, LIKE BRUCE WAYNE, WAS NEVER GRANTED A TRUE CHILD-HOOD; WAS ROBBED OF PURITY AND INNOCENCE.
RAISED IN THE SHADOW OF RA'S AL GHUL'S CORRUPTED SOUL, SHE HAS BEEN A PRISONER OF HIS OBSESSIONS, OF HIS NEED TO CONTROL NOT JUST THE FATE OF THE WORLD...
...BUT THE FATE OF HIS ONLY CHILD.
DO I THINK, HE MUSES, THAT I CAN SAVE HER, HEAL HER-- EVEN THOUGH I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE...


...TO HEAL MYSELF?
YOU KNEW THOSE MEN WOULD NEVER STAND A CHANCE AGAINST ME.
I...HAD TO AT LEAST GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, OR ELSE--
OR ELSE YOUR FATHER WOULD BE SUSPICIOUS.
I KNOW WHAT HE'S PLANNING, TALIA. AND I WON'T LET IT HAPPEN. I--
FOR ONE NIGHT... FOR ONE MOMENT... CAN'T WE JUST FORGET WHO WE ARE--
-- WHAT SIDE WE'RE ON?
CAN'T WE JUST...?
NO.
PERHAPS--IF YOU LEFT HIM, IF YOU CAME WITH ME, WE COULD--
WHAPF
KOFF KOFF
TALIA--?
GONE.


BUT HE'LL FIND HER. HE HAS TO.
FOR HER SAKE... FOR HIS OWN...
...AND FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD.
WELCOME TO NEW YORK, MY DEAR.
IT'S A PLEASURE TO FINALLY MEET YOU, FACE TO FACE.
THE PLEASURE IS MINE, MR. FISK.
OUR BUSINESS DEALINGS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL... AND LUCRATIVE... FOR BOTH OF OUR ORGANIZATIONS.
I TRUST THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO BE SO.
OF COURSE, OF COURSE. SOME WINE...?
I DO NOT DRINK.
SOMETHING TO EAT, THEN?
I HAVE EATEN.
OF COURSE. THEN-- TO BUSINESS.
DePALMA... SOME PRIVACY, PLEASE.
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE, BOSS, I AIN'T GONNA LEAVE YOU ALONE WI--
NOW.
SNAP
AS I WAS SAYING--
TO BUSINESS.



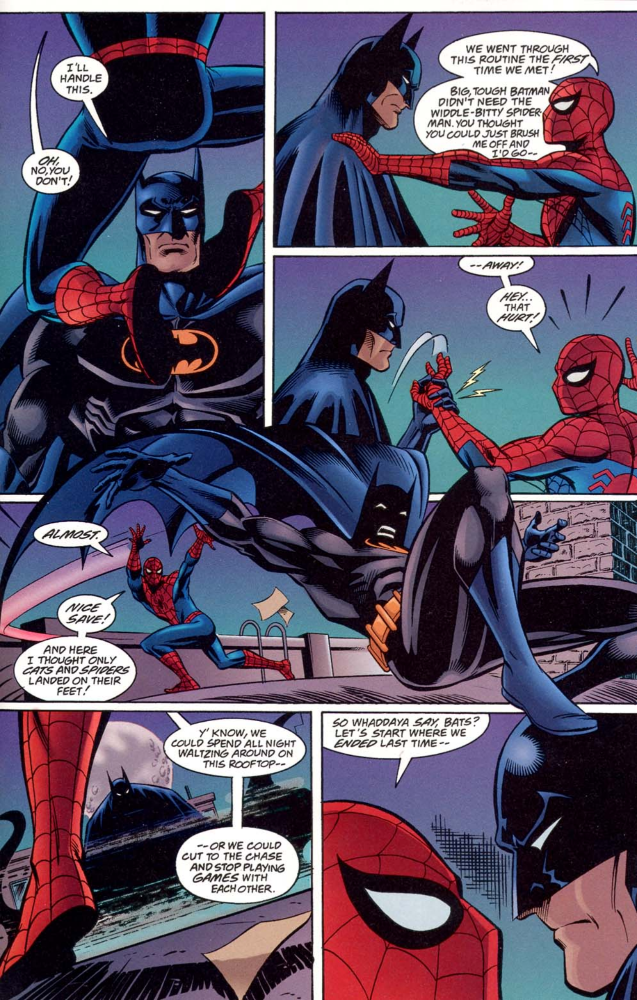
MR. FISK--
CALL ME WILSON--
MR. FISK, YOU OWN THIS CITY. FROM THE LOWLIEST MOBSTER TO THE HIGHEST POLITICIAN, THERE IS NO ONE... NOTHING... IN NEW YORK THAT IS NOT UNDER YOUR CONTROL--
--EVEN IF THOSE YOU ARE CONTROLLING OFTEN REMAIN UNAWARE OF IT--
MY... EMPLOYER IS A MAN OF A SIMILAR BENT. HE FEELS A KINSHIP WITH YOU.
AH, YES--YOUR MYSTERIOUS EMPLOYER. IN ALL OUR DEALINGS YOU HAVE NEVER ONCE IDENTIFIED HIM.
THAT IS BECAUSE HE DOES NOT WISH TO BE IDENTIFIED. WHEN THE TIME COMES--IF THE TIME COMES--YOU WILL MEET HIM.
WHY DO I SENSE THAT THE TIME YOU'RE SPEAKING OF... IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING?
OUR TRANSACTIONS WITH YOU HAVE HELPED EACH OF OUR ORGANIZATIONS REMAIN FISCALLY HEALTHY. BUT WHAT I HAVE COME TO PROPOSE TO YOU TODAY--
--IS SOMETHING THAT TRANSCENDS THE MERE FINANCIAL.
I'M INTRIGUED. GO ON.
POP
WE HAVE SEVERAL SHIPMENTS COMING INTO YOUR CITY. WE WANT THEM TO ARRIVE SAFELY, WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM CUSTOMS--OR ANY OTHER AGENCIES--
INCLUDING, PERHAPS, MY OWN?
PERHAPS.
WE WILL GLADLY PAY THREE TIMES YOUR USUAL FEE.
AND WHAT ARE THESE MYSTERIOUS SHIPMENTS?



THAT, I AM AFRAID, I CANNOT TELL YOU. WE--
RIIIING
YES. YES. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
YOU'RE LEAVING...?
THE GUEST QUARTERS ARE YOURS FOR AS LONG AS YOU'D CARE TO USE THEM. BUT YOUR GENEROUS OFFER, I'M AFRAID, HAS TO BE DECLINED.
WHAT? WHY?
I AM NOT UNAWARE, TALIA, THAT I HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION FOR THE PAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS.
AS LONG AS YOUR TERROR WAS CONFINED TO FOREIGN SHORES, I HAD NO PROBLEM WITH THAT.
BUT IF, AS I SUSPECT, YOU ARE THINKING OF IMPORTING YOUR MADNESS TO MY COUNTRY... MY CITY--
GOOD DAY.
WE ARE NOT TERRORISTS, MR. FISK--THAT I CAN ASSURE YOU.
OUR AIM IS NOT CHAOS, BUT RECLAMATION. REDEMPTION.
RESURRECTION.



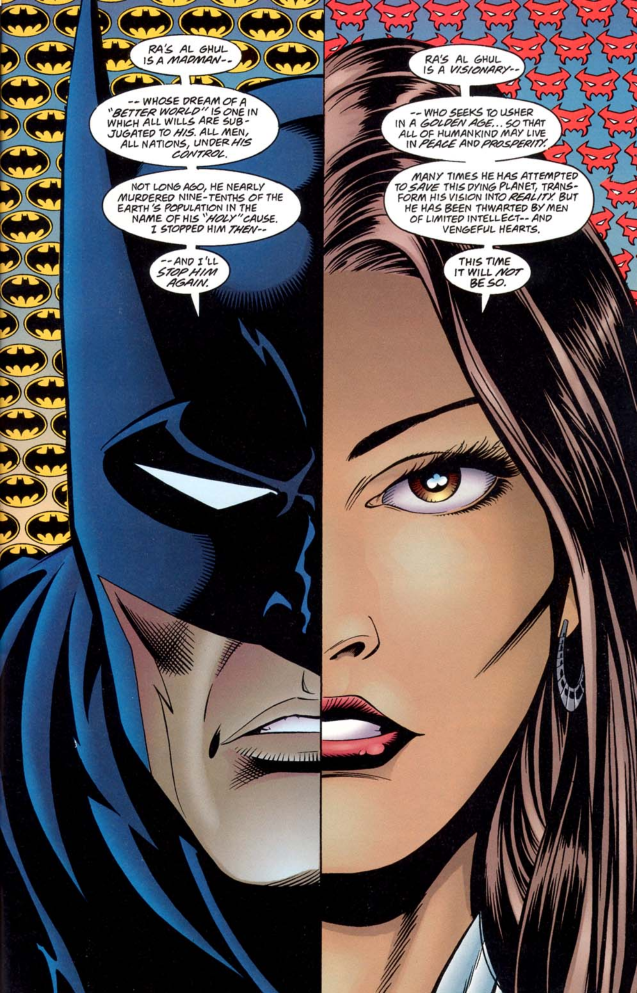
RESURRECTION.
I WONDERED WHEN YOU'D SHOW UP.
NICE TO SEE YOU, TOO, BATS.
MISS ME?
NO.
THEY'RE OUT OF RANGE!
WHATCHA LISTENING TO? METS GAME?
GUESS NOT.
STILL SORELY LACKING IN THE WITTY REPARTEE DEPARTMENT, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT WE DO ISN'T AMUSING.
YOU'RE DRESSED UP LIKE A BAT... I'M DRESSED UP LIKE A SPIDER--
--AND YOU DON'T SEE THE HUMOR IN IT?
I DON'T SEE THE HUMOR IN THEM.
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO KEEP TABS ON WHAT KINGPIN'S BEEN UP TO. PLAYING FOOTSIE WITH SOME KIND OF INTER-NATIONAL CRIME CARTEL, APPAR-ENTLY.
I TAILED THE WOMAN FROM THE AIRPORT.
THEY'RE NOT A CRIME CARTEL.
THEN WHAT ARE THEY?


I'LL HANDLE THIS.
OH, NO, YOU DON'T!
WE WENT THROUGH THIS ROUTINE THE FIRST TIME WE MET!
BIG, TOUGH BATMAN DIDN'T NEED THE WIDDLE-BITTY SPIDER-MAN. YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD JUST BRUSH ME OFF AND I'D GO--
--AWAY!
HEY... THAT HURT!
ALMOST.
NICE SAVE!
AND HERE I THOUGHT ONLY CATS AND SPIDERS LANDED ON THEIR FEET!
Y' KNOW, WE COULD SPEND ALL NIGHT WALTZING AROUND ON THIS ROOFTOP--
--OR WE COULD CUT TO THE CHASE AND STOP PLAYING GAMES WITH EACH OTHER.
SO WHADDAYA SAY, BATS? LET'S START WHERE WE ENDED LAST TIME--


WITH A HANDSHAKE.
THERE'S A MAN... NAMED RA'S AL GHUL--


WILSON...?
DON'T TALK, VANESSA. REST.
NO MORE HOSPITALS, WILSON. NO MORE DOCTORS. THAT'S NOT WHAT I LEFT PARIS FOR... AFTER ALL OUR YEARS APART. I CAME HOME-- FOR YOU.
PROMISE ME.
THIS... THIS IS JUST A TEMPORARY SETBACK.
YOU'LL BE FINE. YOU'LL BE--


THE CHEMOTHERAPY WILL KEEP HER ALIVE, MR. FISK. FOR A WHILE.
BUT WE'RE FIGHTING THE INEVITABLE. YOUR WIFE IS GOING TO DIE. SHE--
DOCTOR--
URKKK
WHAP
--YOU'RE FIRED.
SNAP
...DISPOSE OF HIM.
THEN TELL RIZZO TO FIND ANOTHER DOCTOR.
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS.
HOW DARE YOU COME HERE, TO MY PRIVATE QUARTERS! HOW--
HE CAN SAVE HER.
WHAT?
MY EMPLOYER... MY FATHER-- CAN SAVE MRS. FISK'S LIFE.
WHO IS HE? TELL ME!


RA'S AL GHUL IS A MADMAN--
--WHOSE DREAM OF A "BETTER WORLD" IS ONE IN WHICH ALL WILLS ARE SUB-JUGATED TO HIS. ALL MEN, ALL NATIONS, UNDER HIS CONTROL.
NOT LONG AGO, HE NEARLY MURDERED NINE-TENTHS OF THE EARTH'S POPULATION IN THE NAME OF HIS "HOLY" CAUSE. I STOPPED HIM THEN--
--AND I'LL STOP HIM AGAIN.
RA'S AL GHUL IS A VISIONARY--
--WHO SEEKS TO USHER IN A GOLDEN AGE... SO THAT ALL OF HUMANKIND MAY LIVE IN PEACE AND PROSPERITY.
MANY TIMES HE HAS ATTEMPTED TO SAVE THIS DYING PLANET, TRANS-FORM HIS VISION INTO REALITY. BUT HE HAS BEEN THWARTED BY MEN OF LIMITED INTELLECT-- AND VENGEFUL HEARTS.
THIS TIME IT WILL NOT BE SO.


IN THE PAST MY FATHER HAS SOUGHT TO IMPOSE HIS WILL ON A RELUCTANT MANKIND. NOW HE SEEKS TO HAVE THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD-- TURN WILLINGLY TO HIM.
LOOK AROUND YOU, MR. FISK-- AND WHAT DO YOU SEE? POLITICAL UNREST... RIOTS... REVOLTS... BLOODY, UNCEASING WARS--
--EARTHQUAKES... FLOODS... FAMINES... A HOST OF PLAGUES, BOTH NATURAL AND MANMADE.
SOMETIMES IT SEEMS THAT THE RELIGIOUS FANATICS ARE RIGHT. THAT WE'RE HEADED FOR SOME KIND OF MILLENNIAL CATASTROPHE. A GLOBAL APOCALYPSE.
WHAT MY FATHER INTENDS TO DO IS FEED THIS GROWING LUNACY. AMPLIFY IT. USE CHAOS TO END CHAOS--AND BRING ABOUT THE PARADISE HE HAS ENVISIONED.
HIS SCIENTISTS HAVE BEEN EXPERIMENTING WITH DEVICES THAT CAN CONTROL WEATHER PATTERNS--
--AND MANIPULATE THE ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS AROUND THE EARTH'S TECTONIC PLATES.
THAT RECENT QUAKE IN SOUTHERN INDIA WAS RA'S' DOING... SO WERE THE FLOODS THAT RAVAGED THE MIDWEST. BUT HE'S NOT SATISFIED.
SOMETHING GRANDER-- AND FAR MORE TERRIFYING-- IS NEEDED IF MEN ARE TO RAISE THEIR EYES FROM THE SEWAGE OF THEIR OWN PETTY LIVES... AND SEEK OUT THEIR SAVIOR.
AN EARTHQUAKE, SPIDER-MAN. RIGHT HERE IN NEW YORK. FOLLOWED BY A SERIES OF DEVASTATING TIDAL WAVES--



THAT WILL SINK MANHATTAN ISLAND.
THEN, AS THE TERROR MOUNTS... AS MORE AND MORE DISASTERS LIKE THIS SPREAD ACROSS THE GLOBE--
--RA'S AL GHUL WILL EMERGE FROM HIS SOLITUDE-- TO OFFER REDEMPTION TO A SICK AND DYING WORLD.
HA HA HA HA
I THANK YOU, MY DEAR. THAT'S THE FIRST TIME IN WEEKS THAT I'VE LAUGHED.
THIS IS NO JOKE.
I'M SURE IT'S NOT. TO YOU. AND I WISH YOU WELL IN YOUR...ODD PURSUITS.
BUT BE FOREWARNED: ANY MOVE AGAINST MY CITY BY YOUR ORGANIZATION-- WILL BE INTERPRETED AS A DECLARATION OF WAR.
PERHAPS YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT I SAID EARLIER, MR. FISK--
MY FATHER HAS THE POWER TO CURE YOUR WIFE'S CANCER.
GET OUT.
YOU KNOW WHERE TO REACH ME.



YOU DON'T REALLY BELIEVE IT, DO YOU? YOU DON'T THINK HE'S GOT THE CAPACITY TO--SINK NEW YORK?
YES, I DO.
BUT, EVEN IF IT WAS POSSIBLE --FAT-BOY WOULD NEVER GO ALONG WITH IT!
TAKE OUT NEW YORK--AND KINGPIN'S OUT OF A JOB.
RA'S TENDS TO GET WHAT HE WANTS.
BUT HOW CAN YOU BE SURE?
I HAVE MY SOURCES.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
IN SEARCH OF MORE STIMULATING CONVERSATION!
BAILING OUT ON ME?
BAILING OUT?
IF WHAT YOU TOLD ME IS TRUE... THEN I'LL BE RIGHT THERE BESIDE YOU--EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!
BUT WEARING THIS MASK ISN'T MY ONLY RESPONSIBILITY!
I'VE GOT A LIFE! OTHER PEOPLE WHO ARE DEPENDING ON ME! AND I CAN'T JUST DISAPPEAR WITHOUT A WORD!
DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO.
C'MON, YOU MUST HAVE PEOPLE THAT YOU'RE CLOSE TO... WHO WORRY ABOUT YOU--
I MEAN, EVEN FISK HAS--
AH-- WHY DO I EVEN BOTHER?




WHAT IS THIS... CURE?
MICKEY'S Diner
MICKEY'S
NER
PETER...?
SORRY I'M LATE, SWEETIE.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU COULDN'T HAVE JUST COME HOME. WHY DID I HAVE TO MEET YOU HERE?
SINCE WHEN DO I NEED AN EXCUSE TO COME TO OUR FAVORITE DINER?
YOUR FAVORITE DINER. AND YOU ONLY COME HERE TO STUFF YOURSELF WITH ONION RINGS WHEN SOMETHING'S WRONG.
NOTHING'S WRONG, IT'S JUST-- SOMETHING'S COME UP. I'M GONNA BE BUSY FOR A WHILE.
HOW BUSY?
REALLY BUSY.
WHAT IS IT?
JUST THE USUAL CAPES AND TIGHTS ROUTINE. NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT. BUT IF YOU DON'T SEE ME FOR A FEW DAYS... OR EVEN A FEW WEEKS--
--JUST KNOW THAT IT'S OKAY. I'M OKAY. AND THAT I LOVE YOU.
--FLOODS, EARTHQUAKES, FIRES!


WAR, FAMINE, PESTILENCE! THIS WORLD IS OUT OF BALANCE!
ONLY ONE MAN CAN LEAD US BACK TO SPIRITUAL EQUANIMITY--
--AND HE'S COMING.
"HE'S COMING SOON."
GOD, I HATE AIRPLANES.
ME, TOO, BOSS.
YEAH, ME, TOO.
SHUT UP, WILL YA?
OKAY, BOSS.
YEAH, WHATEVER YOU SAY.
-- THIS SEEMS SO FOOLISH. CHASING MIRACLE-WORKERS... LOOKING FOR CURES THAT CAN'T POSSIBLY EXIST--
ABSURD--!
I HAVE STUDIED THIS MAN MOST CAREFULLY, VANESSA. HE RULES A LAND WHERE DISEASE HAS BEEN ERADICATED. HE HIMSELF IS REPUTED TO BE HUNDREDS OF YEARS OLD.
PERHAPS-- BUT THE FACT IS THE HERBS HE'S SENT HAVE ALREADY GIVEN YOU MORE STRENGTH THAN YOU'VE HAD IN MONTHS--
WILSON--


AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN RETURN FOR MY... RESURRECTION?
THAT'S BUSINESS. AND ONE THING WE NEVER DISCUSS... IS MY BUSINESS.
YOUR "BUSINESS" IS THE REASON I LEFT YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE, WILSON. AND I DON'T THINK--
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
DON'T BE CONCERNED, MY LOVE. JUST A LITTLE TURBULENCE.
BUT-- WE'RE GOING DOWN--
INDEED WE ARE. IT APPEARS--
"--THAT WE'RE LANDING."
HURRY. THE PLANE MUST DEPART QUICKLY IF WE ARE TO AVOID DETECTION BY THE CHINESE.
THE PLANE-- IS LEAVING?
WE HAVE OTHER TRANSPORTATION TO TAKE US ON FROM HERE.
HERE, BOSS--LEMME GIVE YER MOUTH A WIPE--
GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU MORON!
WHERE THE HELL ARE WE?
DEEP IN THE TIBETAN FRONTIER. A LITTLE-KNOWN REGION BETWEEN THE KUEN-LUNS AND THE HIMALAYAS.
MY GOD. IS THERE A MORE DESOLATE SPOT IN ALL THE WORLD?
YOU SEE DESOLATION... I SEE-- PARADISE.
NOW, COME--
--HE IS WAITING.
KEEP YOUR EYES WIDE. FIRST SIGN OF TROUBLE, WE GO FOR BLOOD.


YOUR WIFE WILL BE IN GOOD HANDS--
WILSON...?
GO. I'LL BE THERE AS SOON AS I CAN.
HEY... WHERE'RE THE LIGHTS? WHAT'RE THEY TRYIN' TO--
OUR HOST WOULDN'T DREAM OF BETRAYING US... BECAUSE I'M SURE HE KNOWS THAT, IF MY CAPOS IN NEW YORK DON'T RECEIVE WORD FROM ME ON A REGULAR BASIS AS WE AGREED--
--EVERY LAST ONE OF HIS U.S. OPERATIVES WILL MEET SWIFT AND TERRIBLE ENDS.
AND HOW WILL YOU MAKE SUCH A MOMENTOUS EVENT HAPPEN, MR. FISK?
A SNAP OF YOUR FINGERS--AND MY AGENTS SIMPLY FALL DEAD?
NOT QUITE THAT EASY. BUT THERE ARE MEN OF POWER, ALL ACROSS AMERICA, WHO WILL DO ANYTHING, KILL ANYONE--
--TO CURRY MY... GOOD WILL.
AND I SEEK TO DO THE SAME, MR. FISK. THERE ARE NO ENEMIES IN THIS ROOM.
EXCEPT, OF COURSE--
--FOR THOSE TWO.
NO.


SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, WILLIE-- BUT RIZZO AND MCKAY NEVER QUITE MADE IT TO THE PLANE.
Y'SEE, THEIR JAWS HAD A HEAD-ON COLLISION WITH OUR FISTS!
YOU KNEW?
HOW COULD I NOT?
MY DAUGHTER IS PERFECT IN ALMOST EVERY WAY, BATMAN. BUT HER JUDGMENT IS SERIOUSLY FLAWED-- WHEN IT COMES TO YOU.
LOGIC DICTATED THAT SHE WOULD ATTEMPT TO SEE YOU-- AND THAT YOU, IN TURN, WOULD FOLLOW HER... TO ME.
I'M STOPPING YOU HERE AND NOW, RA'S. AND THIS TIME I'M STOPPING YOU FOR GOOD.
YOU--WOULD DARE JEOPARDIZE MY WIFE'S LIFE... FOR YOUR PETTY CONCERNS?
"PETTY"?
CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, TUB-BALL, BUT I THINK WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT HERE-- IS THE LIVES OF EIGHT MILLION PEOPLE!
I DIDN'T THINK EVEN YOU COULD STOOP THAT LOW!


I'LL KILL YOU, DO YOU HEAR ME?! I'LL--
YOU MUST LEARN TO CONTROL YOUR FURY, MR. FISK. THESE TWO ARE NOTHING MORE THAN MINOR ANNOYANCES--
--AND, AS SUCH, THEY ARE BENEATH MEN LIKE US.
LEAVE THEM TO MY UNDERLINGS. WE HAVE MORE PRESSING MATTERS TO ATTEND TO.
LOOK AT THESE GUYS! I FEEL LIKE HOPE AND CROSBY IN "THE ROAD TO UTOPIA"!
ACTUALLY--
--IT WAS "THE ROAD TO MOROCCO."
AH-HA! I KNEW WE HAD SOME-THING IN COMMON BEYOND OUR LOVE OF TIGHTS!
YOU'RE INTO OLD MOVIES, TOO, HUH?
I WAS-- WHEN I WAS YOUNG.
CHOK
YOUNG? SOMEHOW I CAN'T PICTURE YOU EVER BEING YOUNG!
YOU MUST'VE BEEN PRETTY CUTE, WADDLING AROUND IN YOUR DIAPERS-- CHASING THE JOKER ACROSS THE PLAY-GROUND!


P-TACK!
BOK!
CHUK
WAPED
KA-POW
I WAS NEVER "CUTE."
NOW LET'S MOVE BEFORE--
WRRROARR
DAMN.


THERE THEY GO--
STRAIGHT FOR RA'S' STRONGHOLD.
UH...YOU DON'T HAPPEN TO HAVE A HELICOPTER STASHED AROUND HERE SOME-WHERE, DO YOU?
NO.
HMM.
I DIDN'T THINK SO.


I TRUST YOU FIND THE ACCOMMODATIONS SATISFACTORY...?
WHAT? YES-- I... SUPPOSE SO.
YOU SEEM ANXIOUS. DISTRACTED. ARE YOU NOT PLEASED THAT MY FATHER HAS OFFERED YOU THE CURE FOR YOUR DISEASE?
THE LIFE YOU FEARED LOSING-- WILL SOON BE RETURNED TO YOU.
I SUPPOSE IT WILL.
BUT...?
BUT SOMETIMES I THINK I SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN PARIS, AWAY FROM HIM. BETTER TO BE DEAD--THAN CAUGHT UP IN WILSON'S WORLD OF MURDER AND TREACHERY AGAIN.
BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT YOU LOVE HIM.
WITH ALL MY HEART AND SOUL. WITH EVERY CELL IN MY BODY.
A PARADOX?
ALL LOVE IS A PARADOX, ISN'T IT?
MY HUSBAND HAS DONE THINGS THAT HAVE SICKENED ME BEYOND WORDS-- AND YET I KNOW A SIDE OF HIM THAT NO ONE ELSE DOES--
A TENDERNESS... A GENTLE SPIRIT... THAT HE HIDES FROM ALL EYES BUT MINE.
I KNOW WHAT IT IS TO LOOK INTO THE EYES OF A MON-STER--
-- AND FIND THE SOUL OF AN ANGEL.
YOU MEAN--YOUR FATHER?
AND ONE OTHER.
IT IS MY BLESSING... AND MY CURSE... TO HAVE GIVEN MY HEART TO TWO MEN WHO STAND WORLDS... UNIVERSES... APART--
THEIR WAR HAS NEARLY TORN ME TO PIECES... AND YET I CANNOT CHANGE HOW I FEEL.
NOR, I SUSPECT, WOULD YOU WANT TO.


I HAVE BEEN AWARE OF YOU FOR SOME YEARS NOW, MR. FISK.
WE INHABIT DIFFERENT WORLDS-- AND YET I SEE IN YOU THE SAME SPARK THAT ONCE LIT AN UNQUENCHABLE FIRE IN MY SOUL--UNCOUNTED YEARS AGO.
SO IT'S TRUE... THAT YOU'VE LIVED FOR CENTURIES...?
YES. BUT DO NOT ENVY ME MY LONGEVITY. EACH YEAR HAS BEEN A BURDEN... AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN I CAN TAKE MY FINAL REST.
THEN WHY DO YOU GO ON?
BECAUSE I HAVE A VISION FOR THE WORLD. I WANT TO SEE IT PURGED OF IGNORANCE--PURIFIED IN THE FIRE OF MY WISDOM.
IN OTHER WORDS... YOU WANT TO CONTROL IT--THE WAY I CONTROL MY CITY.
I DO NOT DO THIS FOR PERSONAL GAIN. I HAVE ALREADY AMASSED MORE WEALTH THAN EVEN YOU CAN IMAGINE.
WEALTH IS ONE THING. POWER IS QUITE ANOTHER.
HUMANITY IS BLIND AND STUPID, MR. FISK. THE RACE WILL DESTROY ITSELF IF IT IS NOT TAKEN IN HAND-- TOLD WHAT TO DO AND HOW TO DO IT.
AND YOU'RE JUST THE MAN FOR THE JOB, EH?
INDEED. AND YOU, I BELIEVE--
--ARE JUST THE MAN TO HELP ME.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I'M REALLY A CITY BOY AT HEART. CONCRETE, BIG BUILDINGS, BAD AIR-- THAT'S THE LIFE FOR ME.
ACCORDING TO THE MAP, THERE SHOULD BE TUNNELS NEARBY... THAT WILL LEAD US STRAIGHT TO THE VALLEY--
-- BUT THE STORM'S TURNED US AROUND SO MANY TIMES--


HOW DO WE KNOW WE CAN EVEN TRUST THAT MAP? I MEAN, CONSIDER THE SOURCE--
WE CAN TRUST IT.
HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?
CALL IT A... GUT FEELING.
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.
HERE. GIVE ME YOUR HAND.
IS THIS NECESSARY--
LOOK, CLIMBING IS MY FORTE. I WANT TO SCARE THE HELL OUT OF SOMEBODY, I'LL DEFER TO YOU--
--BUT YOU'RE TALKING TO A GUY WHO STICKS TO THINGS. I MEAN NOTHING SHORT OF AN AVALANCHE IS GONNA KNOCK ME--
RRUMMMMM
--DOWN...?
RUMMMMMMMMM
ME AND MY BIG MOUTH!



YOU SEEM SURPRISED, MR. FISK. BUT IT IS LOGICAL, DON'T YOU THINK?
WHEN THE WORLD IS MINE, I WILL NEED MEN OF LIKE MINDS TO ADMINISTER MY JUDGMENTS... TO RULE ACCORDING TO MY WISH. YOU HAVE CONQUERED A CITY. JOIN ME-- BECOME MY DISCIPLE--
-- AND YOU WILL HAVE A WORLD TO CALL YOUR OWN.
YOU LURED ME HERE, DIDN'T YOU-- TO MAKE ME THIS RIDICULOUS OFFER...?!


YOU NEVER HAD ANY INTENTION OF CURING VANESSA'S CANCER! YOU USED MY WIFE'S ILLNESS--
--TO SERVE YOUR OWN DELUDED ENDS!
I DID NOT USE YOUR WIFE'S DISEASE, MR. FISK-- I CREATED IT... HERE IN MY LABORATORIES.
A MANMADE VIRUS THAT MIMICS CANCER... AND YET IS COMPLETELY CURABLE--
--IF, OF COURSE, ONE KNOWS WHAT THAT CURE IS.
YOU--
--BASTARD!
POKOW
WHAT KIND OF MAN COULD DO SUCH A THING?
YOU...?
WHAT KIND OF MAN IS CAPABLE OF SUCH DEPRAVITY... SUCH CRUELTY?


I ACCEPT YOUR OFFER.
MARY JANE--!
MARY JANE! MARY JANE! MARY-
--JANE...!
WELCOME BACK.
HOW-- HOW LONG WAS I--?
JUST A FEW MINUTES.
A FEW MINUTES TOO LONG.
YOU KNOW SOME-THING I DON'T?
JUST A... GUT FEELING.



THEN LET'S MOVE.
HEY--WHERE'D YOU GET THAT CRAZY LIGHT?
KEEP IT IN MY BELT--
--FOR THOSE TIMES WHEN YOU FIND YOURSELF IN A PITCH-BLACK CAVE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF TIBET?
YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW OFTEN IT COMES UP.
WAS THAT A JOKE?
ABSOLUTELY NOT.
I DIDN'T THINK SO.
...ALL IS IN READINESS, MR. FISK. ONCE WE INPUT THE PROPER CODE... THE SIGNAL WILL BE BOUNCED FROM MY SATELLITE TO THE DEVICES BURIED IN THE WATERS AROUND MANHATTAN--
--AND NEW YORK CITY-- WILL CEASE TO EXIST.
THE DEVICES-- ARE ALREADY IN PLACE? THEN YOUR CLAIM THAT YOU NEEDED MY ASSISTANCE--
WAS PART OF THE GAME THAT LURED YOU HERE. I TRUST YOU ARE NOT INSULTED.
CONSIDERING WHAT YOU'RE OFFERING ME... I'M FLATTERED.
WE HAVE AGENTS ACROSS THE WORLD-- PREACHERS AND POLITICIANS, SCIENTISTS AND ARTISTS-- ALL SPREADING MY FATHER'S GOSPEL. PREPARING THE PEOPLE FOR HIS COMING.
THESE DISASTERS I HAVE ENGINEERED WILL BREAK MAN'S SPIRIT-- LEAVE HIM ON BENDED KNEE, BEGGING FOR MY--
--FOR OUR... GUIDANCE.


THEN ALL WE NEED IS FOR YOU TO GIVE MY WIFE THE ANTIDOTE--AND OUR BARGAIN WILL BE SEALED.
THE ANTIDOTE WILL BE PROVIDED... AFTER YOU HAVE PROVEN YOURSELF TO ME--
--BY PUNCHING IN THE CODE--
--AND DESTROYING YOUR CITY.
AFTER ALL, WHAT CAN NEW YORK MATTER--TO A MAN WHO WILL SOON HAVE THE WORLD?
THWIP
PLEASE, PLEASE--NO APPLAUSE! I'M SO EASILY EMBARRASSED!
SPIDER-MAN!
HE MUST HAVE FOUND THE CAVES! BUT--HOW?
YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T SEE THE SPOT THEY DID ON "CAVE-STYLES OF THE RICH AND DICTATORIAL"?

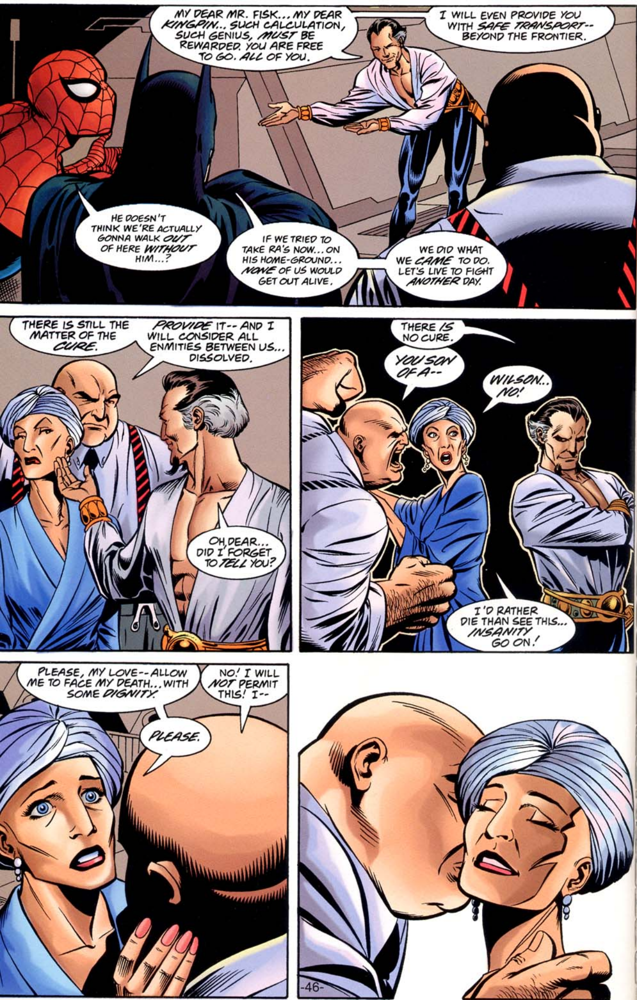


WE'LL SOLVE THIS RIDDLE... LATER.
KILL HIM--
--THEN SEARCH THE FORTRESS FOR THE DETEC-TIVE!
KILL, KILL, KILL-- THAT'S ALL YOU SUPER-VILLAINS EVER THINK ABOUT!
JUST ONCE I'D LIKE ONE OF YOU JERKS TO OFFER ME A WARM BATH AND A PAIR OF FLANNEL PAJAMAS!
DID IT EVER OCCUR TO YOU THAT MAYBE... JUST MAYBE... IF YOU'RE NICE TO PEOPLE--
--THEY MIGHT LET YOU RULE THE WORLD?
I BELIEVE YOU WERE ABOUT TO--PUNCH IN THE CODE?


CLICK
THE SATELLITE--?!
HOW?!
I GUESS SOMEONE MANAGED TO REPROGRAM YOUR COMPUTER.
NOW I WONDER WHO COULD HAVE DONE THAT?


KNOWLEDGE OF THE CAVES-- ACCESS TO MY COMPUTERS--!
AGAIN YOU HAVE COMPROMISED MY DAUGHTER--FORCED HER TO BETRAY ME!
THEN MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU LET HER GO, RA'S. STOPPED USING HER... MANIPULATING HER.
I WILL NEVER ALLOW YOU TO TAKE HER FROM ME! TALIA IS MY HEART... MY SOUL... MY FUTURE!
I'D RATHER SHE WERE DEAD-- THAN AT YOUR SIDE!
THE FUTURE ISN'T YOURS TO CONTROL.
NOT HERS--
--OR THE WORLD'S!
STOP!
IT'S NOT TRUE, FATHER!
I WAS NOT THE ONE WHO BETRAYED YOU-- I SWEAR IT ON MY MOTHER'S GRAVE!
NOT YOU? THEN-- WHO?


ME.
DESPITE MY PROTESTATIONS OF IGNORANCE, I'VE KNOWN FOR SOME TIME WHO I'VE BEEN DEALING WITH. AND SO I VERY QUIETLY AMASSED A FORMIDABLE DOSSIER ON YOU--
--INCLUDING DETAILED SCHEMATICS OF YOUR STRONGHOLD AND OPERATING SYSTEMS--
--KNOWING THE DAY WOULD COME--WHEN I'D NEED TO USE THAT INFORMATION AGAINST YOU.
WHEN YOU MOVED AGAINST HIS WIFE, FISK KNEW WHERE TO TURN.
TO YOU?!
WE DIDN'T SNEAK ONTO WILLY-BOY'S PLANE--WE WERE INVITED!
AS THEY SAY... THE ENEMY OF MY ENEMY--IS MY FRIEND.
HAHAHA
WELL PLAYED, FISK! WELL PLAYED!
HA HA

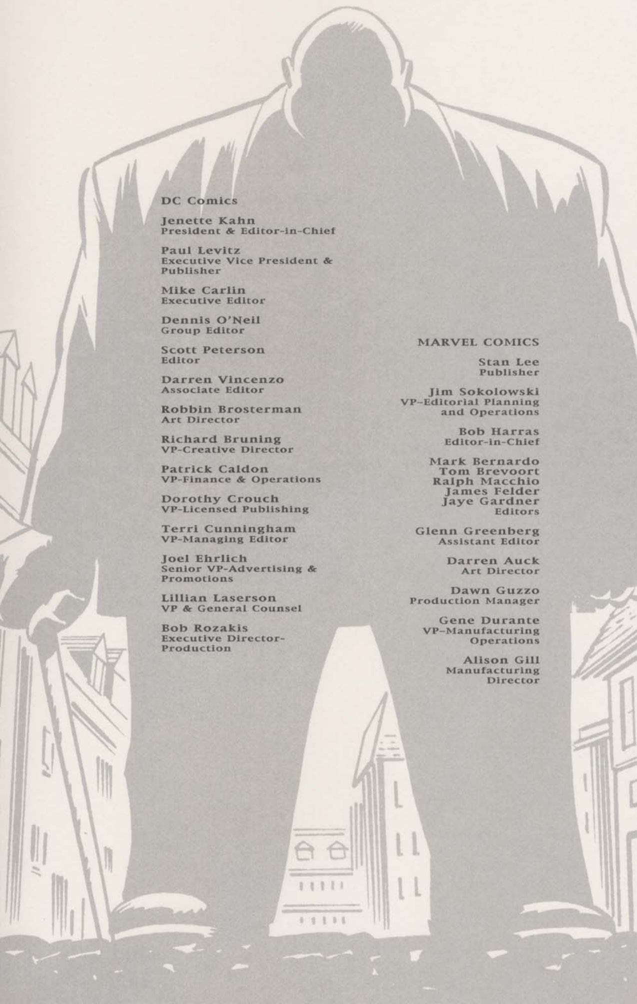


MY DEAR MR. FISK... MY DEAR KINGPIN... SUCH CALCULATION, SUCH GENIUS, MUST BE REWARDED. YOU ARE FREE TO GO. ALL OF YOU.
I WILL EVEN PROVIDE YOU WITH SAFE TRANSPORT-- BEYOND THE FRONTIER.
HE DOESN'T THINK WE'RE ACTUALLY GONNA WALK OUT OF HERE WITHOUT HIM...?
IF WE TRIED TO TAKE RA'S NOW... ON HIS HOME-GROUND... NONE OF US WOULD GET OUT ALIVE.
WE DID WHAT WE CAME TO DO. LET'S LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY.
THERE IS STILL THE MATTER OF THE CURE.
PROVIDE IT-- AND I WILL CONSIDER ALL ENMITIES BETWEEN US... DISSOLVED.
OH, DEAR... DID I FORGET TO TELL YOU?
THERE IS NO CURE.
YOU SON OF A--
WILSON... NO!
I'D RATHER DIE THAN SEE THIS... INSANITY GO ON!
PLEASE, MY LOVE-- ALLOW ME TO FACE MY DEATH... WITH SOME DIGNITY.
NO! I WILL NOT PERMIT THIS! I--
PLEASE.



TALIA...?
THERE IS ONE THING YOU HAVE NEVER UNDER-STOOD ABOUT ME, BATMAN. I DO NOT NEED... RESCUING.
I AM HERE AT MY FATHER'S SIDE FOR THE SAME REASON THAT I LOVE YOU: NOT BECAUSE I AM COMPELLED TO--
--BUT BECAUSE I CHOOSE TO.
WHEN INTERPOL SWEPT INTO RA'S' TIBETAN COMPOUND SEVERAL DAYS LATER...
...THEY FOUND IT DESERTED.
BUT NO ONE DOUBTED THAT THE DEMON WOULD RISE AGAIN--TO TRY TO FORCE HIS NEW AGE DOWN HUMANITY'S THROAT.
IN EXCHANGE FOR TURNING ALL HIS INFORMATION ON RA'S AL GHUL OVER TO THE FBI, WILSON FISK-- A.K.A. THE KINGPIN...
...ONCE AGAIN ELUDED THE LAW.
BUT THERE WERE NO CELEBRATIONS IN THE FISK TOWER--ONLY THE DESPER-ATE PRAYERS OF A MAN WHO, LIKE SO MANY OF US...


...LONG AGO ABANDONED HIS FAITH IN ANGELS AND MIRACLES.
PLEASE SEE THAT THIS ANTIDOTE GETS TO VANESSA —T
BUT WE WOULD SEE MIRACLES HAPPENING EVERY DAY...
...AND ANGELS ALL AROUND US...
...IF WE WOULD ONLY OPEN OUR EYES...
...AND LOOK UP.
END





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